

HIGH DESERT VOICES

May 2016

News and Information published by and for Volunteers

Art for a Nation Exhibit

by Adair Sullivan, Newsletter Writer

Art for A Nation: Inspiration from the Great Depression is an exciting new art exhibit at the High Desert Museum.

On Friday April 15, the Museum hosted an exclusive Member's Exhibit Opening Reception with fabulous food, classic cocktails (provided by the Oregon Spirit Distillers), moving music, and a lively discussion about the Museum's new art pieces. During the discussion, curator Laura Ferguson discussed the significance of the exhibit and its relevance to the art produced under the U.S. Government's Works Progress Administration (WPA). This program, created under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, sought to help millions of unemployed people find work. It also established The Federal Arts Project, Federal Writers' Project, and Federal Theater Project which helped fund thousands of artists, writers, and actors during the Great Depression who struggled to find work. Some of the goals of these programs were to help preserve workers' skills, strengthen the economy, document life of that era, and help bolster the American spirit with patriotic art. Artists were encouraged to portray images of a healthy

robust nation. FDR wanted to give Americans hope and to promote the nation's recovery.

The High Desert Museum is hosting three

newly commissioned pieces of contemporary art from artists Marie Watt, David Willis, and Allan McCollum and Delia Paine, who were also at the exhibit opening night, discussing their art and the processes involved in creation. The artists were asked to reflect upon the era of the Great Depression, and of the WPA in particular, as well as about the state of Oregon today. They were challenged to come up with designs that would connect those two ideas in a visual way. The results are surprising.

Marie Watt has two sculptures on exhibition. The first is comprised of beautiful colorful blankets that are folded and stacked in a large vertical column. The blankets were donated by local people and each blanket has affixed to it the story of that blanket - representing the stories of our community. Ms. Watt has also carved a salvaged wood pole in the image of the stacked blankets, which serves to represent a Native American talking stick and is also emblematic of Oregon's ties to the lumber industry. During the Great Depression, Bend's timber industry and ranches were hit hard. The two sculptures encourage communication amongst members of the community.

David Willis' *Waiting on a Miracle (Undisturbed)* is a striking white sculpture that is in complete contrast to its natural backdrop. It portrays similarities between those people working for the WPA during the Great Depression and today's workers. The image is of someone sitting idle where work could be done, which is symbolic of today's unemployed. The image may also represent someone waiting for our modern government to initiate a plan similar to the WPA's so that they might once again contribute to our economy and earn a living wage.





Allan McCollum, who has a remarkable history of work, and Delia Paine, whose work has been displayed in the Smithsonian, worked collaboratively to create a colorful installation piece with over 5,616 buttons, comprised of unique shapes set against playful, colorful backgrounds, known as *The Shapes Project*. This installation is a reference to the early pioneers who came here via the Oregon Trail and stopped to carve their names on Independence Rock. It is also a statement about mass production goods versus unique handcrafted items. Lastly, it represents each of us as unique human beings.

If you missed the opening night discussion, don't worry! The amazing curators thought of everything. There are videos of the artists talking about the meanings behind their pieces as well as their creative processes located in the hallway near the *Art for a Nation* exhibit.

The art works themselves are scattered across the Museum grounds, which makes for sort of an artistic treasure hunt. While exploring the Museum grounds in search of the art installations, a Museum visitor was overheard commenting to his companion, "Isn't this the most pleasant place to pass the time?" It certainly is. The High Desert Museum is an inviting, entertaining, relaxing, and educational place to be. The new art installations add yet another layer of learning and adventure for Bend's cultural community.



After you've been inspired by these contemporary works of art, you'll want to learn more about the inspiration that arose during the Great Depression. Happily, The High Desert Museum is working collaboratively with the Deschutes Public Library downtown, Tower Theater, and Atelier 6000, to bring the 1930's era history to life through art exhibits, fashion shows, and lectures. For a listing of all the events, please pick up your copy of the Community Programs & Special Events Guide.

Photos by Todd Cary & Heather Duchow

Volunteer BBQ

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor



Every table was filled at the BBQ event on April 5. Volunteers sipped local beers and wines as they chatted with other volunteers and staff. A long buffet table was set up with a huge variety of salads made by staff. You could find fruit, vegetable, potato, and green salads as well as favorites such as coleslaw. Bags of chips in every imaginable flavor were ready for sampling. Barbecued burgers with all of the fixings were placed nearby. Three delicious flavors of gelato were provided for dessert by Bontà gelato restaurant in Bend.

Volunteer Coordinator, Shannon Campbell, and Executive Director, Dana Whitelaw, spoke briefly. Shannon said that this event gave people "a chance to wander

around and talk to people you don't normally talk to." She spoke about how she has appreciated getting to know many Museum volunteers personally in the short time she has worked here. Shannon read a short poem about the importance of volunteering. The poem included a line about "making a difference that lasts a lifetime." Dana wished everyone a happy Volunteer Appreciation Month. She noted that it helped her regulate her work schedule by looking at who was volunteering at the Museum on a particular day. She gave volunteers a "huge thank you for all that you do." Dana also thanked the staff for all of the salads at this event.





Two Director's Awards were presented to volunteers. These less formal awards recognize extraordinary moments of service that may last a day or over the course of a much longer period of time. **Sigrid von Hurst** was recognized for her work on the *Gala* event in January. She helped with the auction items and was referred to as a "right-hand partner" at the event. Dana said Sigrid was "a daily force" and mentioned her work in the By Hand Through Memory exhibit area and on recent study tours throughout Oregon. **Lee Kessler** has volunteered at the Museum for less than a year and a half but he

has already put in 425 hours of work. He has worked in Admissions and at the Silver Sage Gift Store. During Spring Break, when the computer went down, he was instrumental in "standing at the helm" to manage more than 1,000 visitors present at the Museum. He and Sigrid both represent their teams at VAC meetings.

The Volunteer BBQ was a big success. Thanks to staff for providing food and beverages at this event. Thanks to all of the volunteers for their work in making the High Desert Museum great.

To see more pictures of the event, go [here](#).

Photos by Todd Cary



Kudos Korner

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

Several staff and volunteers were thanked for their work in April. **Linda Evans, Erica Pelley, and Ethan Mark** were thanked for all of the time and effort they put into making *Frontier Days* a success. Work ranged from making sure enough people were scheduled, to stacking logs for the crosscut saw. **Linda Evans and Ethan Mark** were also thanked for procuring some 1930's era clothing donated by a Goodwill store in Seattle. The clothing will be used at a *Celebrate the 1930s: Fashion, Dance, and Music* event at the Tower Theater on May 13. **Staff** were thanked for putting together the *Volunteer BBQ*. There were enough tasty salads to make a whole dinner out of them. **Robert Flood, Dustin Cockerham, Darin Goetz, Laura Ferguson, and Faith Brower** were thanked for their work on the *Art for a Nation: Inspiration from the Great Depression* exhibit. Kudos to all of you!

Summer hours and admission cost changes begin May 1.



Hours will change to 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.



Admission cost will change to \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors, and \$9 for children. There is no charge for children four-years old and younger.

Introducing the North American Porcupine, *Erethizon dorsatum*

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor



The North American porcupines at the High Desert Museum are named Honeysuckle, Thistle, Juniper, and Tumbleweed. Tumbleweed stars in the *Porcupine Encounter* program. Honeysuckle is nine years old and she was acquired by the Museum in 2008. Thistle is 13 years old and he was acquired in 2004. Juniper was born at the Museum in April of 2015. Honeysuckle and Juniper were recently moved near the front entrance of the Museum and they are very popular with visitors. All of the porcupines are non-releasable due to human imprinting.

Range: The North American porcupine ranges throughout most of Canada and the western United States south to Mexico. They also live in the northern Great Lakes and northeastern United States regions.

Identification & unique characteristics: North American porcupines are a large rodent with black to brownish-yellow fur and distinct quills that cover most of their bodies. They range in weight from 11 to 30 pounds. They are 24 to 36 inches in length.

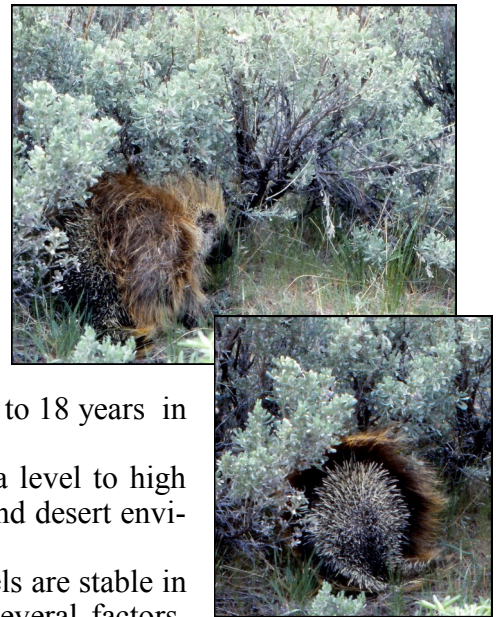
They are excellent climbers with short strong legs, long claws, and hairless soles on their feet. They have a small head and rounded ears. Porcupines can be covered with as many as 30,000 quills. The quills are solid at the base and tip but have a sort of spongy texture in the middle. They are barbed at the tip and used for defense. Quills are not thrown at another animal. Porcupines raise their quills, release a nasty scent, and lash out with their tail if an animal approaches too closely. The porcupine releases quills that become embedded in the skin and expand with body heat. Quills that hit a sensitive area may cause death. Porcupines are very vocal. Their calls include a variety of moans, grunts, coughs, wails, whines, shrieks, and tooth-clicking. Vocalizations and scent are used to attract mates. They have poor vision but a good sense of smell.

Behavior & life history: Porcupines are usually a solitary animal that is mostly nocturnal. They occasionally den with others in winter months. They do not hibernate. Dens are made in caves and decaying hollow logs and trees. Both male and female porcupines defend a territory, though males do so more actively. Mating occurs in October and November. Males fight over females and display their “weaponry” on their backs and tails. An elaborate mating dance is performed for the females. Gestation lasts seven months and the young “porcupettes” are born with soft quills. The quills harden in about an hour. North American porcupines usually have a single porcupette. Young porcupines begin to forage when they are just a couple of days old. They stay with their mother for about five months. Porcupines are herbivores and they feed on leaves, twigs, buds, fruit, nuts, and bark. Their herbivorous diet makes them crave salt so they sometimes chew on the handles of human tools and structures. They also eat de-icing salt deposits on roads. Predators include mountain lions, lynx, bobcats, coyotes, wolves, wolverines, fishers (a member of the weasel family), and great horned owls. Fishers use hunting techniques that minimize their chances of getting poked by the quills. Porcupines are long-lived mammals and can live up to 18 years in the wild and 23 years in captivity.

Habitat needs: Porcupines live in many different habitats from sea level to high elevation. They live in deciduous and coniferous forests, open tundra, and desert environments.

Status & conservation: North American porcupine population levels are stable in most of their range but localized populations have been affected by several factors. Higher populations of predators, such as fishers and mountain lions, have caused lower porcupine numbers. Changes in logging management practices and pest infestations may affect their food source. Occasionally this animal will be hit by vehicles when it is trying to cross a road. In the past, they were poisoned due to their habit of foraging on crops such as trees and corn.

Interesting facts: Native Americans incorporated the porcupine into their mythology. Tribes associated the animal with traits such as cautiousness, humility, modesty, and luck. Porcupines were used as a food source and their quills were used as decorations on clothing and other items. Lakota women would throw a blanket over a surprised porcupine and retrieve the quills it had released into the blanket to use in their quill-



Introducing “Jane Harrington” AKA Chris Moody, Living History Volunteer

by Dave Gilbert, Newsletter Writer



It sometimes takes Christine Moody, who goes by Chris, an hour to prepare for volunteering at the High Desert Museum. That’s because she has to leave Chris at home and arrive at the Museum as Jane Harrington.

The stories of Chris Moody and Jane Harrington share several common themes. Both were born near Columbus, Ohio; both worked in education; both moved west as young women. Mostly, it’s time that sets them apart.

Jane Harrington was born in 1836. Still living at home, with her parents and two siblings, she attended Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and became a school teacher. In her mid-20s, she married a man who worked as a surveyor for the railroad.

“I was quite happy,” Jane remembers, living on a small plot of land near her parents. Her husband, David, however, had dreams of a homestead in Oregon. She and her husband came west by covered wagon and settled south of Dalles City. David died at the age of 43 in 1878.

“The children and I stayed as long as we could,” Jane says, but eventually it made sense to move to Prineville, where her sister’s family owned a sheep ranch.

Jane taught school there for 20 years, kindergarten through eighth grade. After she retired, she moved to the village of Bend and lives on Wall Street, above a dressmaker shop. Each week, usually on Sundays, she visits her long-time friend Mrs. Miller at her homestead cabin south of Bend. She brings with her a few groceries and other items that Mrs. Miller has requested in her regular letters.

Numerous visitors stop by at the homestead, and being a former teacher, Jane relates especially well to the younger ones.

“I like to get down on the children’s level,” she says. Sometimes she invites them to practice their cursive writing on a slate with a slate pencil, or on paper with a dip pen. She might also answer questions about the chickens and other livestock. Occasionally she will even invite them to help with the chores. At other times, visitors find her cooking simple meals on the cabin’s wood-burning stove.

Jane Harrington is unimimidating and grandmotherly. Her silver gray hair is swept back into a bun. Her voice is soft and direct. She lets visitors’ questions lead their conversations.

The cabin’s window glass is of interest to some, who ask if they had glass in the 19th century. “Oh yes,” she says. “In fact, there’s a glass maker in Prineville.”

One visitor from Mongolia was especially intrigued. “We don’t have glass,” the woman told Jane. “We use pig bladder stretched over the opening.” The memory causes Jane’s eyes to sparkle behind round glasses.

Sometimes Jane, who plays the violin, shares music with the younger visitors.

“One little boy asked if I knew the Octopus song,” Jane remembers. “I asked him to sing it for me.” The child whispered “octopus...octopus...octopus.”

Jane played a short tune on her violin. The child looked into her eyes and said shyly, “I guess it’s more of a singing kind of song.”

Chris Moody, the person left at home, began life in 1948, the eldest of three children. Part way through college she married and traveled, following her husband’s work. They settled in Southern California where they lived for 35 years and raised two daughters, Tamme and Jenefer.

Through the years, Chris visited Bend often because that’s where Tamme settled with her two children and husband. Jenefer’s family lives in Jacksonville.

Chris moved to Bend in 2008. “One of the first things I did was come to the High Desert Museum to get involved,” she says. That involvement led to the creation of her character: Jane Harrington.

Jane often greets visitors to the homestead cabin with a question: “Where are you traveling from?” Conversations go from there.

“People will remember their visit if they can share with me some of their experiences,” she says. “I love it here.”

Photo by Dave Gilbert

Admissions and Greeting – Area Overview

by Brian Hoover, Admissions/Greeters Team



“You only have one opportunity to make a first impression.” Making such impressions is a hugely important responsibility for volunteers at the Museum’s Admissions desk. A welcoming smile and a simple “good morning” or “good afternoon” go a long way towards starting our guests’ visits with a positive experience. Being the official welcoming committee, though, isn’t all that admissions volunteers do on a daily basis. For example, volunteers collect those all-important entrance and program fees. They also provide maps and give a brief overview of the Museum grounds, current exhibits, and the day’s schedule.

Another important part of Admissions duties - Memberships! Quite often Museum visitors come in unaware of all that we have to offer. Once they’ve

seen all of the things there are to experience here, visitors often come back on their way out and purchase a membership. Our current members come in often, so the Admissions volunteers also need to be able to answer questions about the visitors’ memberships and assist in renewing memberships or replacing lost cards.

Admissions volunteers do more than just talk about the Museum and sell tickets, they also direct and inform guests about the local area and all the interesting attractions in Bend and the surrounding towns. While the visitor information kiosk does provide a lot of resources for our guests, those working up front must be knowledgeable about all there is to do around here in order to answer questions that might arise. During winter months, we keep visitors updated with how conditions are up at the mountain, or where would be the best place in town to warm up with a cup of coffee.

With the arrival of summer come even more tasks for the admissions volunteers to take part in. There is the hectic addition of ticket sales for *Raptors of the Desert Sky*. There is also the sale of Forest Service passes to tourists who come through our area and to point them towards campgrounds and outdoor activities. In these hot months, we also provide kennels for our guests’ furry friends, keeping them out of the oven-like cars that pack the lot. Summer also adds on to the list of programming, so volunteers must keep up to date on the shows and schedules to make sure guests know where to go (and to keep track of when to make announcements).

Then there are our greeters, these dedicated volunteers act as the true Museum welcoming committee. When the greeters are on duty, guests filter past the admissions desk to be pulled aside by the greeting staff for an in-depth description of the Museum and the day’s events. The greeters have the ability to answer more specific guest questions and to go further into detail about the Museum. Their role creates a more personal and welcoming experience when coming in to the Museum for the first time. It’s a big place and having a greeter helps immensely to get visitors oriented and on track for everything they want to see.

Admissions volunteers and greeters do a lot every day to keep the Museum full of happy visitors. Their services, from the initial hello to the final goodbye both begin and end our visitor’s experiences, making sure that they leave us content with their visit and excited to come back again soon.

If you need more information, please contact Lee Kessler at leekessler49@gmail.com or Nicole Swarts at nicoles@highdesertmuseum.org.



Photos by Damian Fagan & Lee Schaefer

High Desert Museum Area Updates from April 2016

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

By Hand Through Memory – In the log sheet notebook, the porcupine sheet keeps mysteriously moving out of alphabetical order. A couple of weeks ago the fire alarm went off (when it was being serviced) and there were questions about the proper procedures.

The blanket tower in the new exhibit is drawing people in. You can read all of the stories attached to the blankets [here](#). A suggestion was made to print out the stories in a notebook and put them near the tower.

Naturalists – New steelhead and salmon smolt have been added to one of the tanks in BHTM. Other fish, such as the sturgeon, have been moved to a different tank. Things are picking up at the Naturalist's table. There have been some changes in volunteers and staff working with this team. On April 5 Thad Grudzien and Damian Fagan led two groups at a *Birding for Breakfast* event. Though there weren't as many birds as expected, people had a good time looking for birds on the Museum grounds. There were some expert birders in the group. There was a reminder about the *Let's All Pull Together Weed Pull* sponsored by SOLVE at the Museum on April 23.

Collections – Team members are involved in general cleaning. They are excited about the new *Art for a Nation* exhibit. The team understands what it did for artists, writers, and musicians at the time. Volunteers made the curtains in the exhibit area. The furniture on loan from Timberline Lodge is impressive. Heather Anderson, who works at Juniper Elementary School in Bend, is the Oregon Teacher of the Year. She and her students attended *Frontier Days* at the Museum. She spoke with Muriel Carbiener and is an amazing woman.

Mammals - The member's opening event for the remodeled otter exhibit was on April 23. The carnivore, fish, and reptile talks may soon be moved to the Birds of Prey area. Scheduling may have to be adjusted to accommodate them. Team members will soon be trained in giving fish talks. All team members are interested in giving the talks.

Living History - It was a busy week for volunteers and staff during *Frontier Days*. The Miller Ranch, Sawmill, and Fur Trader's Encampment all had a lot of visitors. Past Fur Trader Encampment participants made a welcome return this year.

High Desert Voices Newsletter - This issue features the first "Character" article and the second "Critter" article. Let us know if you like the *Critter and Character* articles by emailing us at newsletter@highdesertmuseum.org.

Silver Sage Trading Center – There is a small log building set called the *Miller Family Ranch Log Cabin Playset*. There is a nice wallet with a picture of an old typewriter on it. There are playing cards with bird and wildflower motifs. The store has two new t-shirts for young children. One is a glow-in-the-dark shirt with owls on it and the other says, "Life is Better in the Mountains". There are kitchen towels with measurements on them such as kitchen conversions. A corner of the store is devoted to bird-related items including a bird logbook. Colorful Guatemalan kick bags are now available. A book on games and songs of American children is popular. There are a couple of the small cylinder toys that "ba" or "moo" when you flip them over. A new vendor from Portland makes white chocolate/berry candy bars and berry/citrus scone mixes. The candy has been a hot seller.

Admissions/Greeters – A "Do Not Touch" sign was placed on the typewriter that is part of the new exhibit. It has been a challenge to keep people from touching it. A request was made to inform Admissions/Greeters about planned maintenance activities in advance.

Ranger Station - There may be four new volunteers working at the High Desert Ranger Station this summer. An interpretive talk will be added to the summer schedule (July to Labor Day) at 1:00 pm daily.

Birds of Prey - Interns are starting to work in the area. Seasonal staff are currently being trained.

High Desert Voices

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2016



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Kitchen Patrol: Living History

May	May - continued
1 Summer Hours Begin. 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.	18 Off-site Event: Know 1930's: Art of the WPA. Deschutes Public Library, Sunriver. 12:00 pm.
2 Off-site Event: Know 1930's: Woody Guthrie Tribute by Sisters Americana Students. Deschutes Public Library, Downtown Bend. 6:00 pm.	19, 20 Off-site Event: Know 1930's: Timberline Lodge - A New Deal Masterpiece. Deschutes Public Library. East Branch on the 19th at 6:00 pm and La Pine on the 20th at 12:00 pm.
7 Thorn Hollow String Band. 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.	20 Open 'til Dark. 6:00 - 9:00 pm. No-host bar. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.
7 Weekend Workshop: Art Studio. 10:30 am - 12:00 pm. Paired pricing for one adult & one child. Members \$10, Non-members \$20. Each additional participant \$5. Registration & pre-payment required.	21 Exhibit Opening: Autzen Otter Exhibit.
7 Weekend Workshop: Museum & Me Art Studio. 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Free. Registration required.	28 Summer Programming Begins.
10 Off-site Event: Plowing up the Past: How Does the Legacy of Agricultural Land Use Influence High Desert Ecosystems Today? McMenamins. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Program starts at 7:00 pm. RSVP.	June - Save the Date!
11 Senior Day. Free admission for everyone 65 and older.	4 Thorn Hollow String Band. 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.
11 Off-site Event: Know 1930's: Will Work for Food. Deschutes Public Library, Downtown Bend. 6:00 pm.	9 Lecture: Traditional History and Radical Dreams in Oregon's WPA-era Public Art. 6:00 pm. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.
13, 14 Off-site Event: Know 1930's: The Old Town is Changed Today - A Journey into a Bend You Never Knew. Deschutes Public Library. Redmond on 13th and Bend on 14th. 2:00 pm.	14 Oregon Folklife Network Artists. 6:30-8:00 pm.
13 Off-site Event: Celebrate the 1930's: Fashion, Dance, and Music. Tower Theater, Bend. 7:00 pm. \$15 (plus \$2 theatre restoration fee). More info at towertheatre.org .	15 Off-site Event: Printmakers of the WPA: Cheers to Art! Atelier 6000. 7:00 - 8:30 pm. \$10 Admission./No RSVP.
17, 24 Off-site Event: Know 1930's: Prohibition and Distilling. Deschutes Public Library. Bend on 17th and Redmond on 24th. 6:00 pm. More info at deschuteslibrary.org/events .	25,26 Off-site Event: Figures at Work: Capturing the Style of the WPA. Atelier 6000. 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. A6 Members \$200, Non-members \$250. \$25 materials fee. RSVP at 541-330-8759.
18, 25 Off-site Event: Know 1930's: The Great Depression in Bend. Deschutes Public Library. Sisters on 18th at 12:00 pm and Bend on 25th at 6:00 pm.	25 Off-site Event: The Wizard of Oz. Tower Theatre. 6:00 - 8:30 pm. \$10 (plus \$2 historical theater restoration fee). RSVP at towertheatre.org .
	To RSVP: www.highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp or 541-382-4754 ext.
	To pre-register: www.highdesertmuseum.org/program